



# NEWS RELEASE

**Date:** November 21, 2006

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## CALTRANS ADVISES MOTORISTS TO PLAN AHEAD FOR WINTER DRIVING

**LOS ANGELES** – Last year, 60 people died in traffic accidents across the State just during the Thanksgiving period alone. More than 1,500 were arrested for driving under the influence.

Statistics such as these are behind the California Department of Transportation's (Caltrans) decision to emphasize winter driving safety in its new campaign, "We're Here to Get you There."

Although weather conditions are not as severe here as in other areas, winter does bring heavy rain, fog, extended night driving and, most important, holiday traffic. Caltrans is advising motorists to adopt the following guidelines during the winter travel season:

- Be prepared. Motorists need to LEAVE EARLY AND ANTICIPATE DELAYS.
- Know Before You Go. Caltrans provides numerous methods to access traffic information that enables drivers to choose alternate routes and departure times. These include Highway Advisory Radio, or HAR; Caltrans Highway Information Network, or CHIN, which motorists may access by calling: 800-427-7623, the Caltrans website ([www.dot.ca.gov](http://www.dot.ca.gov)), and the real time data on travel times from one interchange to another displayed on Caltrans Changeable Message Signs (CMS), the large electronic roadway signs.
- Be extra cautious and extra courteous on the road.
- DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE!

The Department is working behind the scenes to keep drains and culverts cleared to prevent flooding, repaving roadways and filling potholes. Additionally, a new winter driving brochure, "Weathering the Storm," is available by request and also can be downloaded from the Caltrans website.

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